

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/885,611

Examiner

Mark Tremblay

Applicant(s)

DELL, JASON S.

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 6/13/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-36.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
(a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
(a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
(c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1 ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
3 ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
5 ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____.
7 ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- 2 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
4 ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____.
6 ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8 ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9 ☐ Other

DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/13/03 has been entered.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-36 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to teach or suggest the explicitly claimed features, as pointed out in the arguments by Applicant. Although Examiner had taken official notice on the disputed features previously, and cited references in support of that Notice, Examiner is now persuaded that these fall short of providing evidence to obviate the claims. Examiner had not appropriately distinguished "recently" used applications with the "most frequently used" application. Although Microsoft's menu systems could, and probably does result in the display of the most frequently used application in the first location, that could happen with any operating system. This is not enough to address the claim limitations, and Applicant's supporting arguments. Microsoft's operating system does not reserve the first space, and it will let any application recently used in the spot. A similar problem occurs with the "last used" application. The Microsoft operating systems simply do not reserve a first location for the last used application. And finally, while examiner

provided evidence of favor swapping by Microsoft for icon placement, there was no evidence provided for premium payment, and there was no evidence of a first display location being reserved on such a basis. In fact, as the Examiner recalls, Microsoft disputed these allegations, and showed how any icon could be removed, even if it were given a default location on the desktop.

A newly cited patent to Stefik has been provided. While the real estate on this display is highly limited, there is no mention of using the method taught by Applicant. None of the super smart cards reviewed by examiner have these features. The prior art of record as a whole and the Applicant's arguments confront the Examiner with the likelihood that the previously held rejections were based on improper hindsight.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Allowable Subject Matter

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Tremblay whose telephone number is (703) 305 5176. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (703) 305-3503. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7724 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308 0956.



MARK TREMBLAY
PRIMARY EXAMINER

June 29, 2003